



**City of Wilmington**  
Stormwater Services  
P.O. Box 1810  
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PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WILMINGTON, NC  
PERMIT NO. 201

## If you **MUST** fertilize, do it with care!

**F**ertilizer contains nitrogen and phosphorus which are nutrients that are essential to plant growth. However, these **nutrients can pollute waterways** in high amounts.

Improperly or over-applied fertilizer gets picked up by stormwater runoff and carried to our tidal creeks where it can cause algal blooms. As algae decays, it uses up the oxygen that aquatic life need to survive, causing distress and sometimes even large scale fish kills.

**Flip this postcard over** to see how you can protect our waterways while saving time and money on your lawn.

**What's happening in #ilm? Follow us to find out!**



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# Is the grass really greener if it pollutes our waterways?



**If you MUST fertilize, do it with care!**

**Follow these tips to help heal Bradley and Hewletts Creek:**

- **Grasscycle** - Leave grass clippings on the lawn to act as a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner.
- **Sweep it up** - Keep fertilizer off sidewalks, streets, and driveways.
- **Watch the weather** - Never fertilize before it rains.
- **Save time and money** - Get a soil test to check the exact nutrients your lawn needs, if any.
- **Go Native** - Replace turf grass with native plants, they are naturally adapted to the area and don't need fertilizer.

